

REMARKS

Claims 1-23, 27, 34 and 45 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 8 in this response.

Request to enter previous amendment

Applicants request entry of the after-final amendment dated March 15, 2004. In that amendment, applicants amended independent claim 21 rewriting it in independent form to overcome the Office's objection. Claim 21 is currently presented in independent form including the limitations of its base claim and all intervening claims.

Objected to claims 21 and 22

Applicants request allowance of objected to claims 21 and 22 because these claims have been rewritten in response to the Office's objection. The Office objected to claims 21 and 22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Office had previously made the same objection in the Office Action dated January 15, 2004 and the applicants amended these claims accordingly in the response dated March 15, 2004 rewriting claim 21 in independent form. Independent claim 21 stands rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of its base claim and all intervening dependent claims. As such, applicants believe that independent claim 21 is allowable. Because claim 22 depends directly from independent claim 21, it is also believed to be in a condition for allowance. Therefore, applicants request allowance of claims 21 and 22.

Independent claims 1 and 8

In this response, applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 8 to incorporate the allowable subject matter from objected claim 21. In particular, applicants have amended claims 1 and 8 such that these claims now recite that the body is adapted to seat a laser microdissection extraction device at the first end/body portion. Because independent claims 1 and 8 now include the limitation of claim 21 that was indicated as allowable, independent claims 1 and 8 and their respective dependent claims are now also in a condition for allowance for the same reason as claim 21 and action toward allowance is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants believe that the application is in a condition for allowance, and action toward that end is earnestly solicited. Applicants invite the Office to contact their representative at the telephone number below to facilitate advancement of this application toward allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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